

Mustard Seed Series

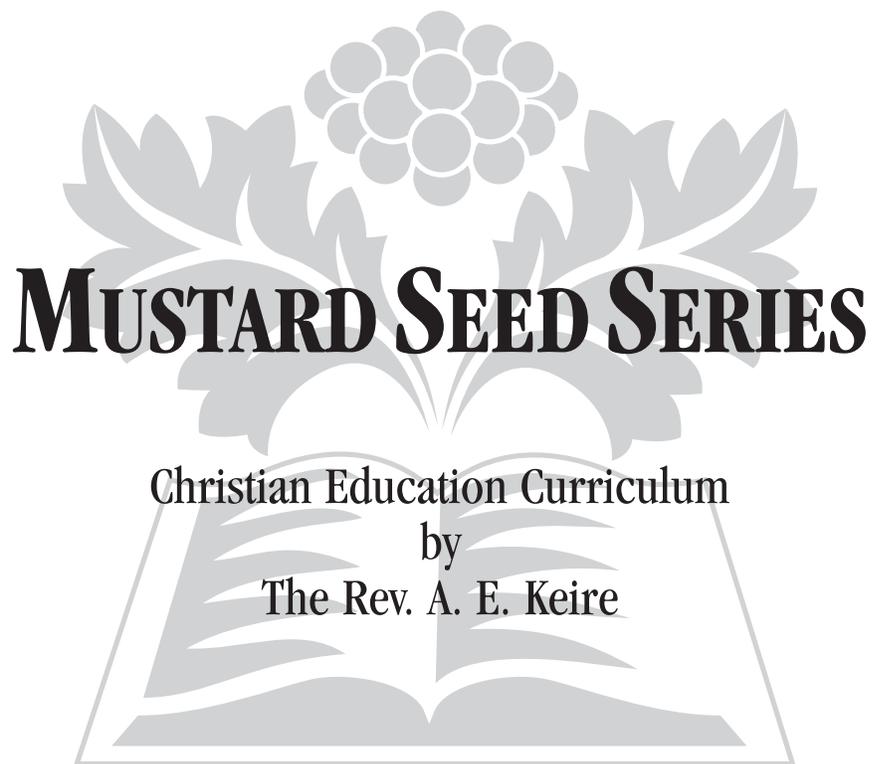
CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



Primary 2



Primary 2
Teacher Book



**Curriculum Development
Associates, Inc.**

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Curriculum Development Associates, Inc.

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*Open the doors
of your heart to Jesus.*



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A D V E N T

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FOCUS

- The Prophecy of the Coming of a Messiah
- Advent
- Story: “Amos’ Gift”



ATTENDANCE AND SHARING



REVIEW

- Recently we celebrated Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a special time of the year. It is a time when we pause and give God thanks for all the wonderful gifts God has given us.
- We have the mural which we made last week that shows the gifts for which we are thankful.
- I want each one of you to read off one of our gifts.
- Last week we also heard a story about a leper whom Jesus healed. Tell me about that story.



ADVENT

- Today is the first Sunday in Advent. I have the word *Advent* written on the blackboard.
 - Does anyone remember from last year what the purpose of Advent is? (Advent is a time when we prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Jesus into the world as a baby. Jesus is God’s special gift to the peoples of the world. Jesus comes to show us how we are to live, love, and worship God.)
 - Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas.
 - The symbols for Advent are the Advent

Wreath, the Advent Rose, and the stork.

- Today we lighted the Advent Wreath in church.
 - The Advent Wreath is a symbol of northern European origin. It is an undecorated wreath made up of evergreens with four pink or purple candles in its outer rim and a white candle in its center.
 - How many candles are on the Advent Wreath? (Five)
 - Why did we light only one candle today? (Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Each Sunday in Advent we will light another candle to tell us in which Sunday of Advent we are.)
 - Next Sunday will be the second Sunday in Advent. How many candles will we light then?
 - There is a white candle in the center of the wreath. When do you think we will light that candle? (We will light it on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day because Jesus was born on that day. The white candle reminds us that it is Jesus’ birthday.)
 - Now, what do you think we can learn from our looking at the Advent Wreath? (The amount of time left before Christmas—and patience!)
- The special gifts Jesus gives us during this Advent season are: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

ISAIAH 9:6-7

Amos’
Gift

“

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor,’ ‘Mighty God,’ ‘Eternal Father,’ ‘Prince of Peace.’

”

ISAIAH 9:6

MATERIALS

- Student Books
- Bible
- Christmas project supplies
- Accompanying music to Christmas carols (See Lesson 2, pages 8 & 9, Activities)
- Activity supplies

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**CLASS PREPARATION
FOR TODAY'S LESSON**

- What is the most precious possession you have?
- Would you ever give it away as a gift?
- About 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah promised the people that in the future God would send the people a Messiah, a Savior, who would be the ideal king. This Messiah would be God's special gift to the world.
 - I will read you Isaiah's words from the Bible. He said: (Isaiah 9:6-7).
 - Christians believe Jesus is Israel's Messiah. Jesus is God's gift to the world that Isaiah prophesied. But first, Jesus must come as a baby.
- As a grown man, Jesus did what he could to make people's lives better. Last week, we learned about his gift of healing 10 lepers.
- Today we are going to start a story called "Amos' Gift." It will take me two more Sundays to complete this story. Are you ready?

**TODAY'S LESSON AND
DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES**

- In what town does this story begin? (Elat)
- What was Amos' handicap? (He had a clubfoot.)
 - How do you think it must feel to be handicapped?
 - Do you have any friends who are handicapped?
 - Are they brave?
- What happened to Amos' mother and father? (They died of smallpox.)
- How old was Amos when they died? (Nine years old)
- What gift did Amos' father give to him? (A beautiful green stone.)
- Why do you think this stone will become important to Amos? (It will be all he has left to remember his parents' love for him and their belief that he was special.)
- Where will Amos go to live and with whom? (He will live in Bethlehem with his uncle's family.)
- How will he get there? (By a caravan)
 - What do you think caravans are like?

**STUDENT BOOKS**

- Take from your Student's Book page 23, "Waiting for the Birth of the Messiah."
 - What is the artist suggesting to us in these pictures?
 - What does the quotation mean?
- _____, would you please read the Nugget messages on the next page.
- There are two Christmas carols on this page.
 - Do you know them?
 - Let us go over the words and their meanings.
 - Let us sing them.

**ACTIVITY**

- Advent and Christmas are a very special time of the year. Your class may wish to work on a project that will reach out to shut-ins or other members of the community. Discuss your options with your Director of Christian Education or Christian Education Committee. Whatever you decide to do, keep it simple and do not let it take any more than 10-15 minutes of class time.
 - You may wish to make Christmas cards from old Christmas cards and send them to the elderly or shut-ins.
 - You may wish to bake and decorate cookies.
 - You may want to make bookmarks out of felt and glue Christmas symbols to them.
 - Look at some arts and crafts books for other simple ideas. It is important that your students give their gifts away, to learn something about giving.
- An easy and effective project is to make glittering stars. They make excellent decorations.
 - Materials needed
 - Assorted colors of glitter
 - Waxed paper
 - White glue that dries hard
 - Ribbon
 - Pour the glue onto the waxed paper in the shape of a star.
 - Sprinkle the glue onto the glitter.
 - Let it set. It will take a few days.

- When the glue is dry, carefully remove the waxed paper.
- Use the ribbon to slip through one of the points of the star.



CONCLUSION

- Let us form a prayer circle.

- Let us give thanks to God for all the many gifts God has given us. Let us also ask God to be with all boys and girls whose parents are ill. May they know of their parents' love and of God's love for them.
- _____, you start today's prayer. I will conclude it. Then we will all say the Lord's Prayer.

AMOS' GIFT—PART I

by Nancy G. Millen

Amos had been born with a clubfoot. His mother and father told him that his clubfoot was something that had just happened. It was nobody's fault, and there was little anyone could do about it. Amos would have to learn how to make the best of it. Amos' clubfoot didn't make them love him any less. In fact, it made him special.

Because Amos could not run and play with the others, he could do something else. When he became a man, he would not be able to plow fields or work on fishing boats. His parents thought that perhaps he could study to be a rabbi or become a great teacher.

His father studied the Torah and taught it to Amos. Amos learned about famous Israelite leaders, such as Moses, Joshua, and David, who had lived before him. Amos' mother said that Amos was born to be a comfort to her and that he could keep her company.

So Amos grew in their love until he was nine years old. He did not feel that he was different at all. No, Amos wasn't different. He was special.

Amos' town was called Elat. It was a village on the northernmost edge of the Sea of Reeds. His village was a fishing village, yet there was farming, too. Traders passed through their village carrying and selling their goods from Egypt to the south, and Israel to the north.

There was rich ore in the hills around Elat. Sometimes Amos and his father looked for the smooth green stones that could be found there. These stones were perfect and smooth. They had the color of fertile fields and were sometimes flecked with graceful swirls of black. Amos thought they were the most beautiful stones he had ever seen.

One day, Amos' lovely life ended. He became sick with a great fever. His mother and father took care of him day and night. Finally, the fever broke. But it left him with deep pockmarks on his face and with a weak and useless arm.

Amos' mother came down with the same fever and died earlier in the week. Now his father was clinging to life. Amos sat by his father, holding his hand tightly. He kept a basin of water nearby to moisten his father's cracked lips. He tried to soothe away the fever that made his father sometimes cry out in fear and see things that were not there.

As his father lay dying, he said to Amos, "Amos, hold tightly to this beautiful stone. It will help you to know you are special in the eyes of God. It will remind you that your mother and your father loved you."

Amos prayed every day for his father's life and sat by his pallet day and night in case his father called him. One morning, Amos' father did not awaken. Amos knelt by his bed and wept. He was all alone now. He wondered what he should do.

Amos went to tell the rabbi, his father's friend, of his father's death. The rabbi, a kind man, arranged

for Amos' father's burial. After the funeral, the rabbi told Amos that his father had provided for Amos in case he did not recover. His father had made arrangements with El-Azar, an Egyptian trader who traveled north twice a year with cloth and other goods from Egypt. El-Azar would take Amos to a town called Bethlehem where his father had been born. There, his uncle Barnabas lived. Surely his uncle would take his nephew in and give him a home. Barnabas had several herds of sheep, and one more mouth to feed would not matter in such a case of family need. Amos' father had already paid El-Azar, the Egyptian, to buy his passage north if the need should arise.

Amos did not want to leave his home in Elat. But he knew his father knew best what he should do. So Amos packed his things and put his special stone in his pocket. He was ready to go north to Bethlehem to his uncle's and his cousins' house.

End of Teacher Book Preview.

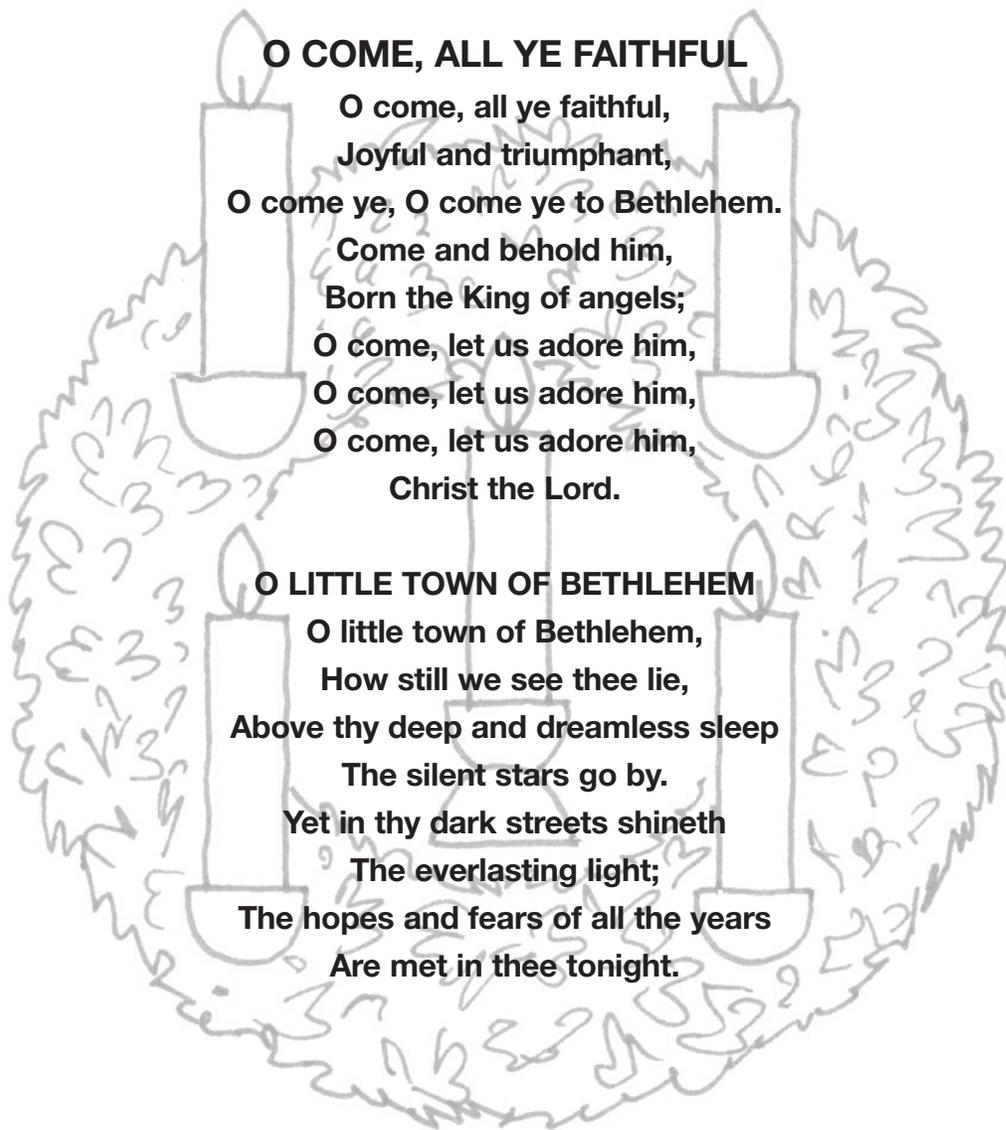
Student Book Preview Follows.

Waiting for the Birth of the Messiah



Each Advent Season the world waits for the birth of the Messiah to guide and lead us. This birth occurs only when the Messiah is born within your heart.

Christmas Carols



Nuggets

- **Christ** is the Greek form of the word Messiah.
- **Advent** begins the church calendar. Advent is the time we prepare our minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus.

A Note Home:

Today our class discussed the church season of Advent and Isaiah's prophecy of a Messiah (Isaiah 9:6-7). We began hearing a story called "Amos' Gift," a story of a nine-year-old boy who will experience the effects of the birth of Jesus in a very special way. Help your child focus on the birth of Jesus as God's special gift to us, rather than as an occasion to receive gifts.